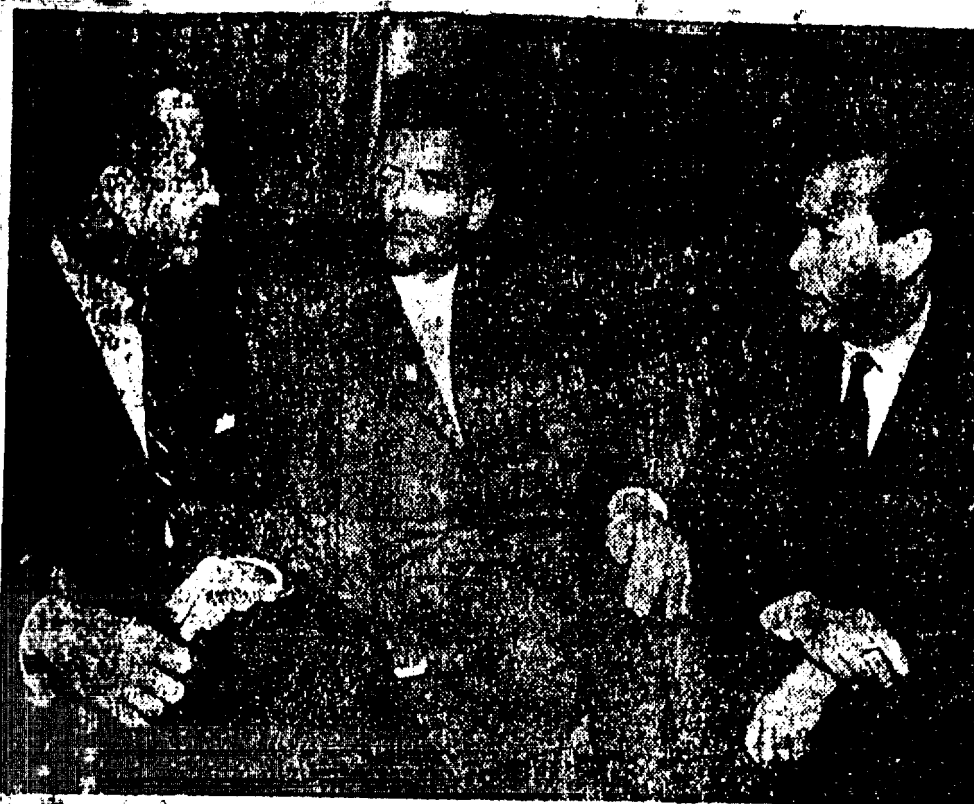


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Ulmer, Eriau, Montarras (from left) Chat During Visit

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## French Security Chief Links Red Decline to Economic Rise

By TOM HOEY  
Times-Union Staff Writer

The man responsible for the internal security of all of France said here yesterday that surging economic progress is responsible for the sharp decline of communism in his country.

M. le Prefet Gabriel Eriau, director of the Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire of the Surete Nationale, France, is visiting at the home of Alfred C. Ulmer of 5005 Yacht Club Rd., with Ulmer's son, Alfred Jr., a personal friend.

The younger Ulmer, who is first secretary at the U.S. embassy in Paris and special assistant to the ambassador, accompanied Eriau here.

The French official and his chief of staff, M. Alain Montarras, spent the past week in Washington, D.C., conferring with Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover, his American counterpart, and Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Spent On Visit

Eriau declined to discuss his official visit to this country other than to say it concerned the internal security of Western Europe, particularly of France.

He also preferred not to talk about the security measure involved in planning the recent abortive summit meeting in Paris.

France, he said, has improved and stabilized her economy tremen-

dously in the past 10 years. Today the nation has the highest employment rate in the world and no major strike troubles, he said.

"I believe communism grows strong where there are poor economic conditions," Eriau said, "but when the standard of living rises communism becomes weaker."

As proof, he pointed out that before his country adopted the new constitution under which she has grown strong economically, there were 33 Communists in the French National Assembly. There are only 10 members today.

"But it would not be true to think that communism is no longer an issue in France. However, it is confined mostly to the young intellectual class and to a hard core of older Communists, mostly in their 40s," he said. "I call it the getting-old party."

Turning to one of his country's most critical problems, the Algerian rebellion, Eriau said the people—both Moslems and Europeans—are fed up with the terrorism provoked by the rebel leaders seeking independence.

"Like wings we are," he said. "When Morocco and Tunisia became independent, they became like wings on a bird which is Algeria," he explained. "If they had been neutral countries, all would have been well. But this is not so. Equipment, weapons and munitions are continually being sent to the two neighboring nations from behind the Iron Curtain and Red China."

This has caused more unrest which, he said, other rebel leaders

have capitalized on. But most of the terrorist activities are now confined to inside the country.

Last September, President Charles de Gaulle offered to hold a free plebiscite in Algeria on three issues: independence, integration and association with France. To date the rebel leaders have not answered the offer.

"They don't seem to be in a hurry to test their power," Eriau observed. "We are waiting."

Asked if France's experience as an atomic power has placed a greater burden of responsibility on his shoulders, Eriau replied that the accomplishment far outweighs any new problems it has created.

"We French are quite satisfied that we have been able to make, and explode an atomic bomb, not because we want to use it, but because possession of it will place President de Gaulle in a position to sit down with powers of equal status to discuss its control."

Eriau, 45, lost his right arm as an infantry officer in the French army during World War II. He joined the underground and later was captured and tortured by the Germans.

As prefect, he holds a position comparable to a governor in this country, but he is appointed, not elected. He also holds a doctor of laws degree.

What does he think of the United States?

"I was very much surprised not to be surprised," he said.

"I have read so much and seen so much of your country that I feel I have been here before although this is my first visit. I am enjoying it very much, particularly meeting the people."